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## "The High School Girls' Clothes Line", A Playlet

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# "The High School Girls' Clothes Line"

## A PLAYLET

This charming little one act playlet has been written for the use of high school girls. It is rather unique and it is easy to dramatize. If given by a group of high school girls it not only affords a delightful bit of entertainment but it teaches a better lesson in proper dressing for young girls than could be taught in almost any other way. It may be easily re-worked to suit local needs. A limited or a large number of girls may take part in the play as the number of models used may easily be increased or some of them may be eliminated.

### Stage setting—

Living room in comfortable home.

### Characters—

Katherine—Wool middy outfit  
Ada—Made-over dress (short, stout)  
Genevieve—Wash middy, dark skirt  
Helen—Shirtwaist and skirt  
Dorothy—Sweater, plaid skirt (athletic)

### Models—

High school girls who are fitted to take part of the different models, dress according to the directions below and come on the stage at the time they are spoken of.

No. 1. Short, stout; coat too small, dark dress, white shoes.

No. 2. Small, white middy, blue collar, dark skirt.

No. 3. Frivolous; middy, plaid skirt, jewelry.

No. 4. Made-over dress.

No. 5. Tall, stout; blue tricotone one piece.

No. 6. Large brilliant red dress.

No. 7. Tall, round shouldered; eton dress.

No. 8. Frivolous; Georgette, French heels, etc.

No. 9. Neat; well dressed.

No. 10. Model No. 2 with apron. Apron over school dress.

No. 11. Neat house dress.

No. 12. Kimona, bedroom slippers, cap, etc.

No. 13. Run-over heels; careless.

No. 14. Hairdress exaggerated.

No. 15. Hairdress neat, becoming.

No. 16. Evening dress; extravagant.

No. 17. Short; organdy, vertical.

No. 18. Tall; organdy, horizontal lines.

No. 19. White; organdy, horizontal lines.

No. 20. White voile.

No. 21. Colored voile.

No. 22. Colored organdy.

No. 23. Silk dress.

When the curtain goes up all five of the characters are on the stage. Katherine and Ada are seated toward the center back of the room on the davenport. The other girls are seated informally on the other chairs in the room.

Katherine—Ada, I am to have an allowance for my clothes, too. Today is the first I ever knew how much money Dad makes. His income is about \$2,000 a year and there are five of us. Mother and I talked it over about my clothes for next year and I am going to do all my own planning. They are going to give me an allowance of \$135 for my clothes.

Genevieve—My, that's not much. I saw a swell winter coat marked \$135 and I tried to make Dad get it for me.

Katherine—I think it's o lot. It's really more than my share for Dad explained to me all about our family budget. We have just about \$170 each month for everything. Our rent is \$40 and mother says now we have no garden it takes nearly \$60 for food.

Genevieve—Can't you spend all the rest for clothes?

Katherine—Mercy, no! Dad says he must save \$25 a month and then there's electric light bills, telephone, gas, laundry, newspapers and magazines—an awful lot of things. \$35 a month is what mother plans on for clothes and that leaves only \$11 for all those other bills. Honest, I don't see how Dad ever has

any money for movies, or anything like that.

Genevieve—Oh, I can get anything I want, if I just tease hard enough.

Ada—I don't think that's right. That's selfish. You get more than your share and somebody in the family gets left out.

Genevieve—Well, maybe it is. But Dad never talks things over with us. I don't believe Mother knows how much money he makes. We just spend all he'll give us.

Ada—Do you girls remember what I did the first year with my allowance? I shall never forget how I wanted white kid shoes. Father said we positively could not afford them. When I got my allowance, the very first thing I bought was the white kid shoes. I never thought about needing a winter coat. When it was time to get one, I didn't have any money left. Mother said I must keep to my allowance so I had to wear my old military coat which was too small. (Model 1) Do you remember?

Katherine—But you had your white shoes.

Ada—Yes, but I did not have a thing to go with them. White shoes look awful with dark dresses.

Katherine—Ada, this is the way I am going to start. I am to get \$11.25 every month. The first thing I bought is this middy. How do you like it? (Katherine stands and turns for inspection)

Girls—Isn't it good looking. How much did it cost?

Katherine—The whole \$11.25, but it is

all I am going to get for school until after Christmas. I have some wash middies like yours Genevieve and this skirt is made out of one of Mothers. (Model 2)

Genevieve—Speaking of middies, isn't Marguerite the limit, the way she fusses up. Whoever saw a sailor all decked out in jewelry and his necktie spread out and plaid trousers. (Model 3)

Ada—I feel differently about made over clothes since I have a budget. How do you like my dress? (Ada stands and turns)

Genevieve—Is that a made over?

Ada—Yes, and I'm proud of it. Mother is an old peach at fixing things up. She is a regular camouflage artist. (Describes dress and gives cost of new material.)

Katherine—I'm going to get busy and make some clothes for myself. It'll make my money go farther. Remember that old plaid kirt of mine? Well, that's a skirt of mother's too, that got torn. I'll bet I can put the two together and make a dress that looks as good as yours, Ada. Let's find a good pattern. (Model 4)

Ada—I've been sewing, too. Bloomers. Good long ones. Warm wooly jersey ones! I'll tell you, I'm going to be comfortable this winter. No more freezing for me. (Lifts skirt and shows bloomers)

Genevieve—Don't tell me you're going to wear long underwear. If you do, Mother will make me sure.

Ada—I should say so.



Oskaloosa High School Girls Presenting This Little Playlet

*Katherine*—We really ought to, girls. I was frozen all last winter only I wouldn't acknowledge it. I know that was why I got the "flu."

*Ada*—I like bloomers anyway. I can climb around all I want to when I have them on.

*Genevieve*—Have you seen Louise's new dress? Doesn't she look good in it? She is so large and tall but you hardly realize it when she wears that dress. (Model 5)

*Ada*—I wonder why.

*Genevieve*—I guess it is because it is dark in color, fits easy and those side pieces seem to add something. Wasn't that a funny story that the clothing specialist told us about a large girl who loved to wear bright colors. It reminded me of Ruth in her red dress. (Model 6)

*Ada*—What was it?

*Genevieve*—A large girl went to a dressmaker to get a red dress made. The dressmaker said she would make her a pretty brown dress and trim it with henna but she still insisted on the red dress. Finally the dressmaker told her that nature dressed the larger animal in neutral colors, but the small dainty creatures have color to make up for their lack of size. The elephant always wears taupe while the humming bird wears brilliant color.

*Katherine*—Emma's new eton dress is real camouflage. It covers up her round shoulders. The loose jacket and wide belt fills in the hollow back. (Model 7)

*Ada*—Here comes Helen. I never could look that nice in a shirt waist and skirt.

*Helen*—I heard you girls talking about my waist. Mother doesn't allow me to wear georgette waists. But I do want

to show you my new shoes. Aren't they good looking?

*Katherine*—Do you like those heels?

*Helen*—You bet I do. You can walk miles without getting tired. Mr. Smith, the shoe man, told me all about this straight last. It is the only kind of a school shoe. How do some girls wear those horrid French heels? (Model 8)

*Genevieve*—Well, I never thought I'd come to it, but I'm wearing that kind and I like 'em too.

*Katherine*—Look, everyone of us has on the same kind of shoes. Aren't we getting sensible.

*Ada*—My, that's a good looking skirt, Helen.

*Helen*—I've just spent hours pressing it. No matter how good your clothes are, if you don't press them they don't look right. "Well pressed is well dressed," you know. (Model 9)

*Genevieve*—You're right, Helen. Some girls look as if they slept in their clothes. Mary Jones just steps out of hers at night and they sure do look it. She doesn't have a single clothes hanger. Her Sunday dress is all out of shape. It looks as if it hung on a nail the way it is punched out in the back.

*Katherine*—You have to keep them clean, too. Mother says avoiding spots beats removing them. I always wear an apron when I am helping with the dishes. Right over my school dress. (Model 10—No. 2 with apron)

*Helen*—I wear a house dress on Saturday morning. It is just great to work in and I can answer the doorbell without being ashamed. (Model 11)

*Genevieve*—I stayed with Mary Jones last Friday night and you should have seen her trying to work Saturday morn-

ing in her kimona and breakfast cap. She certainly was a scream. (Model 12)

*Ada*—I am not surprised at Mary Jones doing that, she always looks so shabby. Her shoes are run over at the heels and always muddy because she won't wear rubbers. (Model 13)

*Helen*—Dad is a stickler about shoes. He says repairs and polish keep our bills down. Shoes and hats dress one up don't you think?

*Ada*—Girls, I did get a coat this winter. (Pause, Ada gets coat and tries it on) How do you like it? It cost \$35. I saved three months of my allowance last summer for it. (Gives merits in detail)

*Katherine*—Let's see your new hat.

*Ada*—O this one? It's my last year's reblocked. (Ada gets hat)

*Katherine*—Let me try it on.

*Dorothy enters*—Hello girls, what are you talking about?

*Girls in chorus*—Clothes and hats!

*Genevieve*—That's a good looking hat of yours, Dorothy.

*Helen*—How would I look in Dorothy's hat?

*Dorothy*—You couldn't year it.

*Helen*—Why not?

*Dorothy*—You never could get it on over that hair.

*Helen*—(tries to put on hat) I guess you're right. Wish I could wear a hat like that. It's so pretty.

*Genevieve*—That's what you get by wearing your hair in that ridiculous way. Helen sits in front of me in school and I just can't see around those huge puffs.

*Katherine*—Would you like to see the  
(Continued on page sixteen)

## Practical Phases of the Love Nest

By EDA LORD MURPHY, Professor of Home Economics

THE TIME: June 1921.

The place: The swing on the screened porch of a cosy home.

The Girl: A girl just out of college, who has embarked on the sea of matrimony with The Young Person by her side.

They were talking, quite seriously but with gaiety. The topic is the perennial one of housekeeping expenses. They have a paper and pencil and are evidently "figuring."

Friend husband exclaims, "I'm glad I married a girl with so much sense. What I don't know about housekeeping would fill a book but I don't mind learning from YOU.—Jove! but you are pretty."

The Sweet Young Thing put her hand over his mouth to stop such unvarnished statements of obvious truths and answers demurely, "There is no allowance in this budget for gratuities, so hush and lets get to work. First lets see just how much we can expect to get from all sources (not counting your father and mother or my father and mother or Uncle Harry or Uncle Bob). Regard this sweet house, actually furnished by our generous friends and relatives! Isn't it the prettiest place you ever saw? Other people's homes don't look half so sweet do they? Aren't we just lucky? Oh dear! Here I am raving on and getting nothing done,

please help me think. One of the first duties of the model husband is to help his wife plan how to spend his money! But my thrifty soul says we ought to plan first how much to save. How soon do you suppose we can finish paying for the house? If nothing happens and we pay every month just as though it were rent it won't take so very long will it? We'll call that savings too for its the best kind. Lets write down the big things we'll have to spend money for. Put savings first, then what we'll eat, then what we'll wear, then those gruesome "operating expenses" and then with whats left after visiting the dentist twice a year we'll indulge in our favorite books and music and magazines and sports. I almost forgot our church dues and at least a thousand other things we'll surely want! Oh don't worry, by the time our trousseaux have worn out you'll be making 'beaucoup' money. Oh yes you will and besides didn't we promise 'for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer?' But there is just this about it, I can do any amount of work and I don't mind going without things but there is one thing I coludn't do, I just couldn't endure it! Guess? No, it isn't that I don't mind not having a car until we really can afford it. No silly of course it isn't any of

those things its just this. Its having to ask you for money. If you hadn't been such a peach you'd have done like lots of men do. They congratulate themselves because they give their wives an allowance for the house! I even know men who think that any small house ought to be run on \$100 a month, just that is a nice round sum and sounds ample. Poor dears! Why aren't they all nice like you and say, 'This business is a business and a partnership, all the money is OURS, we both earn and we both spend.' I don't believe many of them have a joint account like we do. They trust their wives with their lives but not with their money."

"Let me see what you've written."

1. Total receipts. Salary, \$2500 (does not include legacies and gifts).
2. Payments on house.
3. Savings in bank, bonds, etc.
4. Food (counting everyday hospital-ity).
5. Clothing.
6. Monthly items, gas ,electricity, laundry, etc. etc.
7. What makes life worth living—books, magazines, flowers, music, golf,



# "THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CLOTHES LINE"

(Continued from page eight)

silhouettes from our class party? They are a scream! Guess who this is. (Hold silhouette A) (Model 14—No. 3)

*Dorothy*—Ruth.

*Katherine*—No.

*Genevieve*—Nelle.

*Katherine*—No.

*Ada*—I bet it is Alice.

*Katherine*—We all comb our hair alike but you are all fooled. Its me.

*Dorothy*—That's right, you did comb your hair with such big puffs. But it's lots more becoming now. Why did you change?

*Katherine*—Brother kidded me so much that I finally changed it to please him and everybody tells me they like it better.

*Ada*—Your face is too narrow for such big puffs.

*Katherine*—Who is this? (Holding another silhouette B)

*Helen*—It's Sylvia. (Model 15)

*Katherine*—You are right. She—

*Genevieve*—She surely combs her hair pretty. Mother said she made the best appearance of our whole class.

*Helen*—I don't suppose you *old critics* approve of me.

*Ada*—Your ear bobs are too big for your face.

*Helen*—Thank you.

*Genevieve*—Helen, you need not get peeved, it's the truth.

*Katherine*—Let's change the subject before we scrap.

*Dorothy*—Girls, what are you going to wear to Mary's party?

*Helen*—Eloise is going to doll up in her evening gown. Some gown! You'd think she was a silly butterfly. (Model 16)

*Ada*—I am going to wear my orange organdy. (Model 17)

*Dorothy*—Those up and down lines do make you look taller and orange is so good for your complexion.

*Ada*—I do like orange for a change. I get so tired of just blue and pink.

*Genevieve*—Josephine is going to wear her organdy, too. The bands make her look shorter. (Model 18) And Sue is going to wear her graduation dress (Model 19)

*Helen*—The Seniors surely did look wonderful. I like white best myself but it was pretty to have some of the girls wear colored organdys for graduation. (Models 20, 21 and 22)

*Genevieve*—Helen did you really make that silk dress you wore last Sunday? (Model 23)

*Helen*—Yes. "Simplicity is the keynote," as Miss Smith says.

*Genevieve*—Going back to allowances. Katherine, what did you say your father allows you for your clothes?

*Katherine*—\$135.00, that is, \$11.25 a month.

*Genevieve*—Do you have to get shoes, stockings and everything?

*Katherine*—Yes.

*Ada*—I do it and it really works. Come over and I will show you my budget book.

*Genevieve*—I am going home and persuade the folks to put me on an allowance. It will make it so much easier for me when I go to college.

—Curtain—

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